

quantity, one or two of these insects will be seen hurrying to catch hold of the bees' hind-legs to be lifted into the hive again. They also are to be seen on swarms when knit on bushes, etc. So far as I can observe they do not penetrate deeply into the hive usually, but prefer being at the top, especially hiding under cover of the frames, between the cover and the frames the cocoon is most frequently to be found. The cocoon is white, circular, and a little more than one-eighth of an inch across, nearly flat at the top, and when the insect within is nearly perfect it can be dimly seen through the covering.

Another insect I have seen on bees here is apparently a kind of tick, but I have no glass strong enough to let me see them well. They are grey in color, about the size of a small pin's head, roundish and look well filled out. They soon dry up when removed from the bees.

Lately in a friend's hive I saw the largest 'death's head' moth I ever saw; it was a little way down the third frame from the end, and was entirely covered with bees, except just its head and shoulders and top of the back between the insertion of the wings. Both bees and moth were very quiet. This upsets what I have always believed that bees avoid these moths in terror. When I stuck a penknife into the moth's back to remove it the loudness of its shrieks (I notice other moths shriek here) quite astonished me, but the bees took very little notice, and apparently only got off its wings because they felt it was being moved off the comb.

Bees are said not to like bad smells, but I saw a huge swarm of bees which had taken possession of an unsavory rabbit hutch, much to the distress of the children who owned the rabbit. They were afraid to remove him for a long time and watched him through the bars. From the time the bees began to enter till they were perfectly quiet and knitted into a mass the rabbit lay as still as if dead with his ears tight to his back.

I send two or three of these insects which been in spirits of wine, and two or three which have been in cotton wool since I took them. I hope they will arrive safely.

If I can I will put in a specimen or two of our bees, though I believe you have seen them. They are not so pretty as Ligurians though much like them. Amongst them are a few smaller bees, and without the band. These are much blacker than the ordinary ones. I do not see why this difference exists, but it is noticed by several bee-keepers.—J. R. WARD, St. Mary's Parsonage, Richmond, Natal, Nov. 15, 1887.

(The insects sent are Chelifers (claw bearers).)

Chelifers constitute a group of animals allied to the spiders and mites. From their resemblance to scorpions without tails they are called Pseudo-scorpions, or false scorpions. Their palpi are elongated and armed with pincers. The species live under the loose bark of trees, in chinks of old furniture, etc. They are also to be found under the elytra of beetles, but their object in occupying this position is unknown. There is, however, little known respecting them and any observations regarding their habits would be most useful. Kirby makes mention of the peculiar mode of progression of the book-crab (*Chelifer Cancroides*). All must admire the peculiar instinct in the insects making the special use of their pincers, and thus getting into the hives. It appears to us that they enter hives for much the same purpose as earwigs in this country, which are not desirable companions to bees, but which do little harm—especially to strong stocks. 2. From the description we would say that the parasite on the bees is the *Braula caca*, or some species of mite. 3. The Death's Head moth (*Acherontia atropos*) is remarkable also in this country for the shrieking or squeaking sound which it emits. This sound, together with its dark color and its skull like mark on its thorax, has led to its being regarded with superstitious dislike. How the noise it emits is produced is not satisfactorily known, for the authorities differ very widely as to its cause. Schroeter says that it utters the cry when it rubs its tongue against its head; Rosel, that it is produced by the friction of the thorax and abdomen; while Reaumur believes the cry comes from the mouth, or rather from the tongue, and that it is produced by the friction of the palpi against that organ. Huber denies this, as also does Passerini, who say that the sound is due to the alternative inspiration and expiration of air from the central canal of the proboscis into a peculiar cavity of the head destined for giving it the required resonance. But a number of French savans who instituted a series of experiments to ascertain the actual cause of the noise, came to the conclusion that it was not attributable to any of those above given but that it remains to be discovered.

From the British Bee Journal.

OUR WAX IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.

IN our last issue we presented our readers with the statistics of the imports and exports of honeys, as given in the Annual Statement of the trade of the United Kingdom for the year 1887. We now proceed to extract from the same publication the amount and value of wax for the same year. The following tabular ac-